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Letter dated 3 October 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the following statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the Sudan issued on 23 September 2005 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Emyr **Jones Parry**
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 3 October 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the Sudan, issued on 23 September 2005

The European Union welcomes the 20 September announcement of the formation of the Government of National Unity. This is a significant and historic step towards peace in the Sudan. The EU congratulates both the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement for the courage they have shown in taking forward the implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement and welcomes the representation of other political parties in this Government. The European Union now calls on the Government of National Unity to move forward quickly with other aspects of the implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement, including as a first step the establishment of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission to monitor progress on this matter.

The European Union also welcomes the opening of the preparatory workshops for the next round of the African Union-led Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur in Abuja on 15 September 2005. It calls on all parties to participate in the forthcoming negotiations without preconditions and to negotiate flexibly and in good faith with a view to reaching a just and lasting peace settlement for Darfur very soon.

The European Union also expresses its grave concern about recent reports of serious clashes in Darfur, apparently involving members of the armed movements, the Government of the Sudan and Arab militias, including most recently, on the eastern slopes of the Jebel Marra and in Sheiria, South Darfur. The European Union calls on all the belligerents immediately to rein in their fighters and to ensure that their forces respect international law, as well as the N'Djamena ceasefire agreement and the Abuja protocols. All those involved have a responsibility to find a peaceful solution to the conflict and any attempt to undermine the Abuja peace process is unacceptable. The European Union looks forward to the rapid conclusion of the investigation of the African Union mission in the Sudan into these recent incidents.

Following the recent reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the European Union also condemns the considerable rise in abductions, harassment, extortion and looting and notes that such actions are having a seriously detrimental effect on the vital delivery of humanitarian assistance. The European Union therefore calls on all sides, and particularly the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A), to rein in their fighters and to ensure that their forces respect international law.

The European Union reiterates its commitment to: a resolution of all conflicts across the country, including in Darfur; the implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement; and the establishment of a peaceful, prosperous and democratic Sudan.

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* Croatia continues to be part of the stabilization and association process.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Croatia,* Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with the present statement.

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